

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 02011 190952Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 ABF-01 PER-03
FSE-00 A-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 TRSE-00
IGA-02 /046 W
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R 181107Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2264
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 2011

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: APER AFSP AMGT NV RO
SUBJECTT: ASSISTANCE TO FSL EMPLOYEES

REFERENCE: MANAGUA 1235

1. WE WISH TO ASSOCIATE OURSELVES IN THE STRONGEST
POSSIBLE TERMS WITH POINTS CONTAINED IN PARAS 2 AND 3
OF MANAGUA'S EXCELLENT REFTEL.

2. BEING ONLY THE LATEST OF A LONG LIST OF FOREIGN
SERVICE POSTS WHICH HAVE SUFFERED CONSEQUENCES OF A
MAJOR DISASTER, WE ARE GRAPHICALLY IMPRESSED WITH NOW
VITAL THE FSL STAFF IS TO A RESUMPTION OF EVEN LIMITED
OPERATIONS IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION. WE ARE ALSO
DEEPLY MOVED BY DEDICATION OF THESE EMPLOYEES IN RE-
SPONDING TO OUR NEEDS AT SUCH A TIME, EVEN THOUGH THEY
THEMSELVES MAY HAVE SUFFERED THE DEATH OF FAMILY MEM-
BERS AND FRIENDS, THE LOSS OF THEIR HOMES, AND THE DE-
STRUCTION OF SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF THEIR BELONGINGS.
FURTHER, IN ANY GIVEN YEAR IT IS PROBABLE THAT SOME
POST SOMEWHERE WILL EXPERIENCE SUCH A DISASTER. IT
THEREFORE SEEMS TO US THAT IT IS SHORTSIGHTED AND
IRRESPONSIBLE ON THE PART OF U.S. GOVERNMENT AS
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THEIR EMPLOYER NOT TO BE A POSITION TO EXTEND HELP
TO LOCAL EMPLOYEES WHEN THEY MOST NEED IT AND NOT TO
HAVE AN ALREADY-ESTABLISHED INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM
TO DO SO.

3. WE HEARTILY ENDORSE MANAGUA'S SUGGESTION OF
CREATING SOME TYPE OF PERMANENT EMERGENCY FUND FOR LOCAL

EMPLOYEE DISASTER ASSISTANCE, POSSIBLY IN AN EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION/CREDIT UNION CONTEXT. WE ALSO SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT SERIOUSLY CONSIDER WAYS AROUND THE PROHIBITION AGAINST USE OF "APPROPRIATED FUNDS" FOR THESE PURPOSES, BAGABOO WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE STYMIED TRULY EFFECTIVE AND TIMELY RELIEF FOR MOST POSTS IN DISASTER SITUATIONS AND IS CERTAINLY A MAJOR OBSTACLE FOR THIS EMBASSY IN ITS EFFORTS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO REAL AND PRESSING HUMAN NEEDS. THERE IS, FOR EXAMPLE, A LINE ITEM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUDGET ENTITLED "EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE." THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT. WHY NOT APPROACH CONGRESS WITH AN EXPANDED DEFINITION OF "EMERGENCIES" TO INCLUDE ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL EMPLOYEE?

4. WE WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS AS WELL AS SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW WE COULD HELP VIS-A-VIS CONGRESS IF THAT IS THE PROBLEM.
BARNES

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Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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